

Amendment to the Specification:

Please insert the following immediately prior to the first paragraph on page 20:

Referring to Figures 1-2, 6-7, 12-13, and 18-20; it has been discovered that the spreader or articulating film holder 22 is well-adapted to positioning an articulating or marking film 23 relative to a patient's dental arches independently from a holder arm 21, 21a, according to an embodiment. As may be appreciated from Figure 18, the spreader 22 with articulating film forceps 61a, 61b may be supported directly by a practitioner's hands and inserted into the mouth of a patient. The spreader 22 and articulating film forceps 61a, 61b may be spread or allowed to spread to rotate the articulating film forceps 61a, 61b laterally to press gently against the insides of the patient's cheeks. Alternatively, the practitioner may present the spreader 22 and articulating film forceps 61a, 61b to the patient's mouth in a one-handed operation. For example, the practitioner may support one forceps between thumb and index finger and the other forceps between two other fingers in a manner suggestive of holding chopsticks.

Once inserted into the patient's mouth, the articulating film 23 may be held or restricted to desired lateral and/or longitudinal positions or range of positions by friction or indentation between the forceps 61a, 61b and the patient's cheeks, and held or restricted to desired vertical position or positions by the patient's dental arches. In such a position, the practitioner may release his or her grasp on the articulating film forceps 61a, 61b and/or the spreader 22, and let the assembly rest or float in position. The practitioner may then use both hands to perform other tasks, such as manually articulating the patient's jaw while supporting the patient's head, etc. with relative certainty that the articulating film 23 will remain in place.

In applications where the spreader is used independently of the holder arm 21, 21a, the nose post 20, 20a, holder arm, and associated assemblies may optionally be omitted. In embodiments where the spreader 22 is not coupled to a holder arm 21, 21a, the apparatus for coupling the spreader to the holder arm may be optionally omitted. For example, according to embodiments, the extension of the spreader body comprising the fork fitting 50 defining a vertical slot 51 may be omitted. Alternatively, an extension to the spreader body or apparatus coupled to the spreader body may be

provided in the form of a holding tab, ball, rod, etc. in place of or in addition to the fork fitting 50.